II. Remarks

Claims pending in the current application in view of the below presented amendments and arguments are claims 1-5, 1-9, and 11-22. Claims 6 and 10 have been cancelled.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that a certified copy of the priority Canadian application number 2,299,824 has not yet been filed. The Applicant will be submitting a certified copy of the priority application in due course.

Applicant also notes the provisional rejection of claims 1-10 under obviousness-type double patenting. However, Applicant requests reconsideration of this provisional rejection in view of presented amended claims 1-5, 7-9, and new claims 11-22.

The Examiner has rejected system claims 1-10 as-filed under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated over United States Patent No. 6,324,648 issued to Grantges ("Grantges"). Applicant would like reconsideration of this rejection in view of the below presented claim amendments and arguments.

System claim 1 has been amended to recite:

A network resource access system for providing a network terminal with access to a selected network resource device over a network for communication of translated source data from the network terminal to the network resource device, the system comprising:

a resource registry including resource configuration data associated with the selected network resource device, the resource configuration data including a driver identifier for a resource driver associated with the selected network resource device, the resource driver for translating source data to produce the translated source data in a format suitable for processing by the network resource device; and

an authorization server for receiving a request from the network terminal for communication access to the selected network resource device, the request configured to include

a device identifier associated with the selected network resource device and user configuration data associated with the network terminal, the authorization server being configured for determining the network terminal is authorized to access, according to the user configuration data, the selected network resource device associated with the device identifier and for determining the network terminal is configured with the resource driver associated with the driver identifier.

Method claim 5 has been amended to recite:

A method for providing a network terminal with access to a selected network resource device over a network for communication of translated source data from the network terminal to the network resource device, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the network terminal for communication access to the selected network resource device, the request including a device identifier associated with the selected network resource device and user configuration data associated with the network terminal;

obtaining resource configuration data associated with the selected network resource device as identified by the device identifier, the resource configuration data including a driver identifier for a resource driver associated with the network resource device, the resource driver for translating source data to produce the translated source data in a format suitable for processing by the network resource device;

determining the network terminal is authorized to access, according to the user configuration data, the selected network resource device associated with the device identifier; and

determining the network terminal is configured with the resource driver associated with the driver identifier.

Support for amendments addressed to the operational characteristics and address of the network resource device, and configuration of the network terminal, can be found in paragraph [0020] of the subject application which provides an illustrative list of computer resources "file servers, scanners, and printers" and at paragraphs [0022] and [0025]. Support for amendments addressed to the nature and function of the authorization server functionality can be found at paragraphs [0023], [0027], [0037], [0042] and at paragraphs [0051], [0052], [0055] of the subject application.

A distinguishing feature of the claimed invention, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5, is that the authorization server configures the driver application on each network terminal for communication with a selected network resource device based upon a correspondence between the resource configuration data (e.g. user access level and/or device identification and/or driver identifier) associated with the network resource device, and a user configuration data (e.g. network address, user name) associated with the network terminal. With this arrangement, a system administrator is able to control/configure access to the virtualized network resource device by simply altering the associated resource configuration data. Further, with this arrangement, a user of the network terminal (when properly configured by the appropriate device driver) is able to communicate translated source data directly with a selected network resource device. None of the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest a network resource access system which possesses these features.

Applicant submits that contrary to the present invention, Grantges teaches a computer system 20 that provides authenticated access from a client computer over an insecure, public network to one of a plurality of authorized applications hosted by destination servers on a private, secure network. This authorized access is done through use of a client-side digital certificate. Initially, user 18 of client computer 22 enters the destination URL into a web browser portion of client computer 22. The web browser then issues an HTTP request across insecure network 26, which is routed to proxy server 34. The user receives a "pop-up" message regarding

establishment of the secure network connection. A user-selected digital certificate is then sent to proxy server 34. A first level authentication is conducted, outside the firewall, by proxy server 34. If authenticated at this level, proxy server 34 then sends the information contained in the client's digital certificate through firewall system 32 to gateway 38 to be authenticated at a second that involves examining the particulars of the digital certificate using the data stored on authorization server 46. If user 18 is authorized to access multiple applications, the next item after the "popup" message to be displayed to user 18 is an "options page", presenting the multiple choices. Once a particular application is selected, the next item to be displayed for user 18 is the selected application.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that in particular Grantges does not teach the dynamic matching of data translation/formatting capabilities of the network terminal with authorized access of the corresponding network resource device data processing capabilities. Further, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the fact that the claimed network resource driver and the "driver application" as interpreted by the Examiner in Grantges are not analogous art. Applicant submits that the resource driver is for configuring the network terminal for recognized data communication with the network resource device, while the interpreted "driver application" has nothing to do with configuration of device processing capabilities.

Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite that the data to be transmitted is formatted so as to be suitable for processing by a network resource device, based on selection and configuration of an appropriate resource driver associated with the network resource device. The appropriately configured source driver of the system provides for translation of the source data for eventual processing by the corresponding network resource device. Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a secure unidirectional transfer of source or application data from the network terminal to a network resource device, as opposed to being a system for two-way secure real-time communication

between applications, as is the case with the system of Grantges. Further, the presently claimed invention provides for dynamically configurable authorized access by the terminal of the network resource device.

In light of the above remarks, and amendments submitted herewith, the Applicant submits that claims 1 and 5 are neither taught nor suggested by Grantges, and the Examiner is asked to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 5. Further, as amended claims 2 through 4 and new claims 11 through 16, and amended claims 7 through 9 and new claims 17 through 22 are dependent on, and narrower than, claims 1 and 5 respectively, the Applicant similarly submits that these claims are novel and inventive over the cited art.

Further, Applicant notes the prior art made of record but not relied upon and also submits that this art is not pertinent to the presently claimed invention embodied by claims 1 through 22.

It is believed that the above remarks and amendments submitted herein have placed this present application in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is requested. Further, Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced into the subject application by the

foregoing amendments. If the Examiner has further concerns, he is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at 416-862-4318. All correspondence should continue to be directed to listed address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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